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General Assembly

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Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children
Second substantive session
New York, 29 January-2 February 2001
Agenda item 4
Organizational arrangements for the preparatory process and the special session

Draft decisions proposed by the Bureau

Provisional agenda and organizational matters for the special session of the General Assembly on children

The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children recommends to the Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Provisional agenda for the special session

The General Assembly adopts the following provisional agenda for its twenty-seventh special session:

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of the President of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President.
5. Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children.
6. Organization of the session.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. Review of the achievements in the implementation and results of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan

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of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s.

9. Renewal of commitment and future action for children in the next decade.

10. Adoption of the final document.

Draft decision II
Organizational arrangements for the special session

The General Assembly adopts the following organizational arrangements for its twenty-seventh special session:

Date and duration

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/26 of 20 November 2000, the special session shall be held from 19 to 21 September 2001.

Title of the special session

2. On the basis of General Assembly resolution 55/26, the title of the special session shall be as follows: "Special session of the General Assembly on children".

President

3. The special session shall take place under the presidency of the President of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

Vice-Presidents

4. The Vice-Presidents of the special session shall be the same as those of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

5. The General Assembly shall establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-seventh Special Session.

6. The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole shall consist of one Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom will serve as Rapporteur. The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee will serve as the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Credentials Committee

7. The Credentials Committee of the special session shall have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

General Committee

8. The General Committee shall consist of the President and the 21 Vice-Presidents of the special session, the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly and the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Rules of procedure

9. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly shall apply to the special session.

Allocation of items

10. All items of the provisional agenda shall be considered directly in the plenary of the special session; the substantive items shall also be allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Level of representation

11. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/93 of 7 December 1999, participation shall be at the highest possible level.

Schedule of plenary meetings

12. Six plenary meetings will be held, as follows:

Wednesday, 19 September

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Thursday, 20 September

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, 21 September

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Debate in plenary

13. Statements in the debate in the plenary of the special session shall be limited to five minutes.

14. The list of speakers for the debate in the plenary will be established by a drawing of lots.

15. Member States, the Holy See and Switzerland, in their capacity as observer States, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, will be invited to participate in the drawing of lots.

16. The order of precedence for the list of speakers will be as follows: (a) heads of State/heads of Government; (b) Vice-Presidents/Crown Princes or Princesses; (c) the highest-ranking official of the Holy See and Switzerland, in their capacity as observer States, and of Palestine, in its capacity as observer; (d) Deputy Prime Ministers; (e) Ministers; (f) Vice-Ministers; and (g) Chairmen of Delegations.

Participation of Member States

17. In its resolution 55/26, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for the full and effective participation of Member States in the special session. In its resolutions 54/93 and 55/26, the Assembly invited the participation of heads of State and Government in the special session.

Participation of speakers other than Member States

18. With respect to the participation of observers in the debate in plenary:

(a) A number of organizations and entities have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly;

(b) In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 54/93 and 55/26, States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations may participate in the special session as observers;

(c) In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/26, the following associate members of the regional commissions may participate in the special session as observers, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly: American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, New Caledonia, Niue, Puerto Rico and United States Virgin Islands.

19. Entities of the United Nations system, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions, with specific expertise in the subject matter of the special session, may make statements in the debate in plenary, provided that they are represented at the highest level. Representatives of the United Nations system may also make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

20. Representatives of non-governmental organizations accredited to the special session* may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the special session. Given availability of time, a limited number of representatives of non-governmental organizations accredited to the special session* may also make statements in the debate in the plenary of the special session. The President of the General Assembly is requested to present the list of selected non-governmental organizations to the Member States in a timely manner for approval. The President of the General Assembly is also requested to ensure that such selection is made on an equal and transparent basis, taking into account the geographical representation and diversity of non-governmental organizations.

21. The last two speaking slots at each plenary meeting, with the exception of the first and last plenary meetings, may be reserved for participants other than Member States, the Holy See, Switzerland and Palestine provided that they are represented at the highest level.

22. The arrangements outlined in paragraphs 19 to 21 above shall in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the General Assembly.

* Non-governmental organizations accredited to the special session in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children either enjoy consultative status in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 or are accredited to UNICEF or have a collaborative relationship and partnership with UNICEF.